

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 018819 TOSEC 010240

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 0936 ACTION SECSTATE 24 JAN 76

QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 0936

NODIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR US EG

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FAHMY

REF: SECTO 01091

1. MET WITH FAHMY TODAY TO GIVE HIM YOUR LETTER CONCERNING THE MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. HE READ IT, BUT MADE NO SPECIFIC COMMENT. HE GAVE INSTRUCTIONS THAT IT BE TRANSLATED INTO ARABIC AND SENT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR THE LATTER'S INFO.

2. WE THEN HAD A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON LEBANON. HE DREW MY ATTENTION TO HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT OF LAST EVENING WELCOMING THE LEBANON CEASE-FIRE, BUT ALSO

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INDICATING THE EGYPTIAN VIEW THAT IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED

LONG AGO AND THAT THE LEBANESE PEOPLE COULD HAVE BEEN SPARED THE HEAVY SACRIFICE IN LIVES AND MATERIAL DAMAGE (CAIRO 0931). FAHMY REITERATED HIS CONVICTION THAT THE SYRIANS AND PERHAPS THE SOVIETS HAVE DELIBERATELY KEEPTHE POT BOILING ALL THIS TIME, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE LEBANESE THEMSELVES WERE NOT WITHOUT BLAME. HE IS STILL SKEPTICAL THAT THE CEASE-FIRE WILL HOLD, BUT ALSO CONTENDS THAT IF IT DOES HIS POINT WILL BE PROVEN.

3. FAHMY THEN EXPRESSED SOME DISPLEASURE THAT "WHITE HOUSE" OFFICERS-- HE DID NOT KNOW WHO, BUT THOUGHT THEY WERE NOT OF SENIOR LEVEL-- HAD SPOKEN TO GHORBAL URGING THAT THE AIN JALLUD BRIGADE NOT RPT NOT BE DEPLOYED TO LEBANON. GHORBAL HAD REPORTED THIS APPROACH. FAHMY WAS ANGRY THAT I HAD REPORTED EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT TO PERMIT DEPLOYMENT OF SOME OF THAT UNIT (CAIRO 0814). IF WE WERE GOING TO USE SUCH INFORMATION TO MAKE DEMARCHESTOGO ON A MATTER SUCH AS THIS, WHEN THE SYRIANS HAVE DEPLOYED LARGE NUMBERS OF PLA FIGHTERS, HE WOULD NOT CONVEY SUCH SENSITIVE INFORMATION AGAIN. I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD HAD WORD ABOUT THE AIN JALLUD BRIGADE DEPLOYMENT FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, NOT ONLY FROM HIM. AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE HAD NEVER MENTIONED THE AIN JALLUD BRIGADE BY NAME.

4. THIS CALMED HIM A BIT. HE STATED THAT ONLY 50 RPT 50 MEMBERS OF THE BRIGADE HAD BEEN DEPLOYED. AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD ME, THEY HAD SPECIFICALLY BEEN REQUESTED BY ARAFAT. IN MAKING REQUEST, ARAFAT HAD STATED ASAD APPROVED REQUEST. THEY HAD BEEN SENT TO DAMASCUS AND HE HAD NO IDEA WHERE THEY MIGHT BE NOW. FAHMY INDICATED THAT HE HAS NOT RPT NOT SENT GHORBAL'S REPORT OF THE PERTINENT "WHITE HOUSE" DEMARCHE TO THE PRESIDENT, SINCE HE BELIEVES SADAT WOULD REACT BADLY TO IT.

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